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Dated: 5/3/04

Signature: 

(Tia B. Zimmerman)

Docket No.: 367592000100  
(PATENT)

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re Patent Application of:  
Brian H. JOHNSTON et al.

Application No.: 09/137,059

Art Unit: 1635

Filed: August 20, 1998

Examiner: J. Epps-Ford

For: NUCLEIC ACID AGENTS FOR DETECTING  
TARGET MOLECULES AND METHODS FOR  
THEIR USE (AS AMENDED)

**AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.111**

Mail Stop Amendment  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

This is in response to the non-final Office Action dated November 3, 2003 (Paper No. 44), for which a response was due on February 3, 2004. Filed herewith are a Petition and fee for a three month extension of time, thereby extending the deadline for response to May 3, 2004. Accordingly, this response is timely filed. Reconsideration and allowance of the pending claims as amended, in light of the remarks presented herein, are respectfully requested.